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Historical Data 2400
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The United States Hospital No. 12 which was located at Vila, on the island of New Caledonia, served its intended purpose during the years 1942 and 1933 in the South Pacific. However, as the combat zones moved North and other hospitals were constructed closer to the battle fronts the usefulness of the Hospital No. 12 diminished. During the year 1944 no battle casualties were received and only local patients were admitted coming from various medical stations on the island and from ships which called at the port. The census of patients slowly decreased throughout the year. Activities were ordered to other areas. The situation finally arrived where it became necessary to dismantle the hospital to be able to move the other activities from the island which the hospital was dependant on.

The dismantling was actually begun in February 1944 when two units, of 400 bed each, were prepared for shipment as additions to hospital 11 and for advance bases. These units were never used as planned and are still with the hospital.

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In June 1944 orders were received to reduce the bed capacity from five hundred to one hundred and forty, and to cease to function as a hospital on 1 August 1944. The process of dismantling was gradually carried on in form of crates during these months. On 1 November 11 November, equipment and supplies were crated and loaded aboard ship. The entire hospital with its personnel of four officers and 19 men embarked for Noumea, New Caledonia to the select steamer arriving on 2 December 1944.

The unloading of the ship required ten days and this work was done by the Army. The island was situated in the 6th Series Dump Area which the Americans had used as a rear. This staging site has turned to the field for the time. There are 17 storehouse buildings in this area, 10 by 100 feet, and it was necessary to use 10 of these buildings to receive the supplies and equipment. The buildings and much of the heavy equipment were stored in the 47th Service Area until they could be offloaded for the stores and re-crating by that activity. All medical supplies equipment have been sorted and segregated by the hospital's medical staff and borrowed modern machinery from the ship were discarded.

Early in the year of 1945 it was evident that the hospital had served its full purpose so long and no changes or improvements seemed warranted. There were administrative or personnel problems that occurred during the year or other than those that usually are present in all hospitals.

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Historical Data(Contd.)

The personnel of the malaria control groups of both the Army and Navy deserve much credit for the work performed in the immediate vicinity of the living and working areas of all activities stationed on the island. Prior to the occupation of Efate by the Armed Forces, this island was a hot bed for malaria but following the efforts of Malaria Control it became a reasonably safe place to live.

During the year 1943 there were 531 original admissions of malaria to the hospital and in the year 1944 to August 1st. there were 58 cases treated with original infection.

There were 19 original admissions for malaria during the year of 1943 from members of the staff and only 3 for the year 1944 up to August when the hospital closed. The reservation was free of anopheline mosquitoes and very few culex were found in the searchos. All cases of malaria developing in the members of the staff were generally considered to have been contracted while off the reservation or recreation..

All personnel having been on the island of Efate, and particularly at the hospital, will in general retain pleasant recollections of their tour of duty.

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